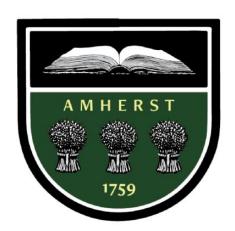
Town of Amherst, Massachusetts

Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024







To our Staff, Partners, and Community Members





"The FY24 Budget Proposal accelerates progress in key initiatives - like climate action, public safety, and racial equity — and addresses the clear need for greater investment in our roads."





(Photo of Town Manager, Paul Bockelman)

Budget Summary

Total

Budget	FY23 Recap		FY24 Proposed		Change (\$)		Change (%)
Municipal	\$	26,157,973	\$	26,942,712	\$	784,739	3.0%
Amherst Schools	\$	25,177,763	\$	25,933,095	\$	755,332	3.0%
Regional Schools	\$	17,254,803	\$	17,772,447	\$	517,644	3.0%
Libraries (tax support)	\$	2,149,058	\$	2,213,530	\$	64,472	3.0%
Subtotal	\$	70,739,597	\$	72,861,784	\$	2,122,187	3.0%
Budget	FY23 Recap		FY24 Proposed		Change (\$)		Change (%)
Capital	\$	7,293,664	\$	7,287,398	\$	(6,266)	-0.1%
Retirement, OPEB, etc	\$	7,483,932	\$	8,139,529	\$	655,597	8.8%
Assessments, Other	\$	4,902,071	\$	5,169,206	\$	267,135	5.4%

\$ 90,419,264 \$ 93,457,917 \$ 3,038,653



3.4%

Budget Highlights



Proposed FY24 Budget: \$93,457,917

- Modest operating budget increase of 3.0% for Town, Schools, Library
 - School Committee voted a budget \$84,000 higher not being proposed
- Boosts capital spending to 10.5% of the tax levy
- Maintains discipline in meeting long-term OPEB and Pension obligations
- Overall budget increase of 3.4% from FY23 adopted budget (including FY23 supplemental budget)



Infrastructure

- \$2,494,366 for roads and sidewalks (including Chapter 90 Funds)
 - Largest single year investment in the Town's history
- \$40,000 added for tree planting, removal, and care
- \$230,000 added for field maintenance equipment

Climate Action



- \$775,000 to purchase/lease two new electric school buses including charging infrastructure (\$200,000 to be offset with reimbursement from grant)
- \$225,000 to purchase three hybrid cruisers
- \$200,000 for energy efficiency and sustainability improvements in capital plan
- \$22,000 for sustainability operating budget (ValleyBike, memberships, and professional development)

Community Health & Safety



- Maintains funding for CRESS (10 FTE)
- \$20,000 for overtime and communication expenses for CRESS
- \$725,000 borrowing authorization to replace Fire Department pumper truck
- \$450,000 for a new Fire Department ambulance
- \$8,000 to establish a second lead dispatch position in the Police Department
- \$25,000 for Public Health Department to provide administrative support and for the Town's Mosquito Control District assessment

Racial Equity & Social Justice



- Maintains funding for Diversity Equity and Inclusion (2 FTE)
- \$6,000 to support training and community engagement
- \$5,000 to pilot childcare reimbursement program for elected officials

Housing Affordability



■ \$1.8 million allocated from Community Preservation Act for FY24 to support community housing including two new projects that will produce dozens of new affordable units

A M H E R S T 1759

Enterprise Funds

- Higher costs driven largely by increases in wages, benefits, utilities, fuel related expenses, and capital/debt
- \$400,000 debt authorization request in Sewer Fund to replace Pump Station #4
- \$70,000 capital request in Solid Waste to replace Transfer Station Scale

Looking Forward

- Working to secure annual non-tax funding for EMS/Fire which will allow the Town to incorporate four new positions into the operating budget and purchase a new ambulance in FY24
- Working to set-aside \$100,000 annually in non-tax funds to promote safe and healthy housing
- Reviewing options to allocate remaining ARPA funds for upcoming capital needs (such as the School roof projects) to help relieve pressure on the capital budget
- Internal working group will focus on long-term financial sustainability in the schools. The group will study and make recommendations on:
 - Funding levels; Cost saving measures; Facility planning
 - Recommendations to be submitted by December 31, 2023
- Economic Development Task Force in partnership with Institutional Partners



Thank you!

Questions

